

Wars at the end of the eighteenth century, it suffered the fragmentation which to-day is its greatest disadvantage. Since then, however, the country has perhaps for the first time in many centuries had peace for over a hundred years together.

One would imagine that a political history so disturbed should have left the populace little leisure for the arts of peace and that the country should have lagged behind in civilisation and culture. No doubt this too has happened. Yet in the earliest times known to us this land had the elements of some civilisation.

The *Ramayana* contains references to a civilisation of the south midway between those of Ayodhya and Lanka, Excavations at Chandravalli in the north of Mysore show the existence of some kind of town life here two or three thousand years ago. Some articles found in the diggings at Mahenjodaro would seem to be of Mysore origin. Through the centuries of war and conquest the population kept its culture alive and, in such intervals of peace as a prince more powerful than others gave it from time to time, evolved arts and crafts with commendable enterprise and added to the inheritance. It developed a school of music which is called the Karnataka School and which has spread all over the south. It is true that in later times this music has had more votaries in the Tamil than in the Kannada country and

that the
language of the best songs of later times in it
is Telugu,
not Kannada. That does not, however,
affect the fact
that the Karnatak country gave birth to
the School,
The name it bears like the names of pkces
we often
"bear at the beginning of our own names
indicates